

Section 5. Research Findings

6. Children and Family

The **Children and Family Section** of the **Nantucket Community Survey - 2006** research centered around two sets of opposing forces that impact a young person's environment. One of these sets of forces tends to accentuate the positive aspects of their environment (**protective factors**), while the other includes those actions and attitudes that ultimately bring about negative consequences (**risk factors**) for the young person. Based on well established national research and drawing from a set of forty "developmental assets" of young people, Nantucket Community Survey - 2006 questions probed the actions and attitudes of both the parents/guardians and the young person—thus providing a view of the human environment encountered by the Island's young people, but also measuring to some degree the effect of parental and community attitudes and actions.

Responses from Nantucket parents/guardians regarding the young people in their own household and their interaction with family, friends, neighbors, school officials, and others in the community were gathered through the Children and Family Section of the Nantucket Community Survey - 2006. These responses highlighted a number of protective factors and risk factors encountered by our young people.

Specific child and family-oriented protective factor topics responded to by Nantucket parents/guardians include;

- Access to safe and appropriate youth programs
- Attendance at daycare and after school care
- Coverage by BOTH medical and dental care insurance
- Having transportation to youth activities
- Health insurance coverage (CMSP or Medicaid)

Specific child and family-oriented risk factor topics responded to by Island parents/guardians include, the child;

- Acting stubbornly at home or at school
- Acting disrespectfully toward others
- Appearing overly sad, discouraged, or depressed
- Arriving home from school to a house where no adult is present
- Being disobedient or defying adults
- Feeling a lack of community support for self and friends
- Seeming stressed out, nervous, or worried
- Having experienced teen dating violence
- Fighting or hurting other household members
- Having a chronic illness or disability
- Verbally abusing household members
- Association with known drug/alcohol users
- Attending unsafe schools
- Being in physical fights at school or in the neighborhood
- In anger, hitting/hurting a boyfriend/girlfriend or another kid

Household Issues:

Nantucket Community Survey - 2006 respondents were asked to identify major children- and family-related issues and problems that came up in their household during the previous year. The following children- and family-related issues were reported by Nantucket parents/guardians:

- Children or teenagers experiencing behavioral or emotional problems
- Not being able to find or afford after-school child care
- Not being able to find or afford childcare
- Underage smoking or other tobacco use
- Underage drinking

Highlights from Children and Family-Related Research Findings

Over one hundred-fifty Nantucket households answered the Children and Family Section of the Nantucket Community Survey - 2006. These “young people family households” are home to two hundred-sixty four (264) persons age 17 or younger, with an average of almost two (1.7) young people per household. One-in-ten (11%) of these households report having three or more children. The average age of the youngest child in these households is seven years. The oldest child in these households averages nine years and 7-months in age—showing an average age separation of two and one-half years between the oldest and youngest child. Sixty-five percent of these households have young children (ages 0-9), whereas, fewer than one-half include a pre-teen or teenage child (ages 10-17). Young people in these households are enrolled in schools from pre-kindergarten up through the twelfth grade.

Table 5.6.1 shows the primary children-family protective factors reported to be at work in Nantucket young people family households. (See also, Appendix 2.D)

Table 5.6.1: Primary Children/Family Protective Factors in Nantucket’s Young People Family Households: (households with someone age 17 or younger)

Children/Family <u>Protective</u> Factor	Percent of Nantucket Young People Family Households	Percent of Nantucket Young People Family Households
Parent/Guardian: Tell us about your youngest and oldest children:	“Yes” For Youngest Child:*	“Yes” For Oldest Child:*
Has access to safe and appropriate youth programs, clubs, etc.	88%	89%
Almost always has transportation to youth activities	86%	94%
Is covered by <u>BOTH</u> medical and dental care insurance	50%	49%
During working hours, child is in day care or after-school care	40%	36%
Healthcare covered by <u>Children’s Med. Sec. Plan</u> or MassHealth	31%	23%

* Note: Child may be too young in some instances for a question to be truly appropriate.

Table 5.6.2a shows the childhood chronic illness and disability status reported in Nantucket young people family households. (See also, Appendix 2.D)

Table 5.6.2a: Childhood Chronic Illness and Disability Status in Nantucket’s Young People Family Households

Child(ren) Status	Percent of Nantucket Young People Family Households	Percent of Nantucket Young People Family Households
Parent/Guardian: Tell us about your youngest and oldest children:	“Yes” For Youngest Child:	“Yes” For Oldest Child:
Has a chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, ADHD, depression, etc.)	9%	19%
Has a disability (vision, hearing, physical, mental/emotional, etc.)	7%	4%

Table 5.6.2b shows additional children/family–related findings for Nantucket young people family households. (See also, Appendix 2.D)

Table 5.6.2b: Child(ren)’s After-School Supervision in Nantucket’s Young People Family Households

Children/Family Situation	Percent of Nantucket Young People Family Households
Parent/Guardian: Does any child in your household (age 17 or younger) arrive home from school to a house where NO ADULT is present? (YES)	19%

Table 5.6.2c shows the primary children/family risk factors reported to be at work in Nantucket’s young people family households. (See also, Appendix 2.D)

Table 5.6.2c: Primary Children-Family Risk Factors in Nantucket Young People Family Households

Children/Family <u>Risk</u> Factor	Percent of Nantucket Young People Family Households
Parent/Guardian: Tell us how often these statements apply to ANY child living in your household:	“Sometimes” or “Often” For Any Child:*
Acts stubbornly at home or in school	46%
Acts disrespectfully toward others	32%
Is disobedient or defies adults	25%
Seems stressed out, nervous, or worried	23%
Appears overly sad, discouraged, or depressed	21%
Verbally abuses members of his/her household	19%
Fights with or hurts siblings or adult household members	16%
Feels a lack of community support for him/herself or friends	14%
Hangs with kids known to use drugs or drink alcohol	9%
Attends an unsafe school	4%
In anger, hits or hurts a boyfriend, girlfriend, or another kid	3%
Is involved in physical fights at school or in the neighborhood	3%
Has experienced teen dating violence (date rape, etc.)	0%

* Child may be too young in some instances for a question to be truly appropriate.

Table 5.6.3 shows key children/family-related issues in Nantucket’s young people family households. (See also, Appendix 2.D)

Table 5.6.3: Children/Family-Related Household Issues in Nantucket’s Young People Family Households [a minor-to-major problem in household]

Children and Family-Related Household Issues	Percent of Nantucket Young People Family Households
Not being able to find or afford child day care	21%
Children or teenagers experiencing behavioral or emotional problems	20%
Underage drinking	7%
Not being able to find or afford after-school child care	18%
Underage smoking or other tobacco use	5%

Most Needy Households (see definition of “Most Needy” households in Section 5.4)

Respondents from forty-two of the most needy households on the Island answered the Children and Family Section of the Nantucket Community Survey – 2006. These most needy young people family households are home to seventy-one persons age 17 or younger, with an average of almost two (1.7) young people per household. Four percent of these households report having three or more children. The average age of the youngest child in these households is four years and 11-months. The oldest child in these households averages eight years and 1-month in age—showing an average age separation of just over three years between the oldest and youngest child. Eight-in-ten (81%) most needy young people family households have young children (ages 0-9), whereas, just one-quarter (24%) include a pre-teen or teenage child (ages 10-17). Young people in these households are enrolled in schools from pre-kindergarten up through the twelfth grade.

Table 5.6.4 shows the primary children-family protective factors at work in our most needy young people family households. (See also, Appendix 2.D)

Table 5.6.4: Primary Children/Family Protective Factors in Nantucket’s Most Needy Young People Family Households:

Children/Family <u>Protective</u> Factor	Percent of Most Needy Young People Family Households	Percent of Most Needy Young People Family Households
Parent/Guardian: Tell us about your youngest and oldest children:	“Yes” For Youngest Child:*	“Yes” For Oldest Child:*
Has access to safe and appropriate youth programs, clubs, etc.	77%	70%
Almost always has transportation to youth activities	72%	86%
During working hours, child is in day care or after-school care	56%	50%
Is covered by <u>BOTH</u> medical and dental care insurance	51%	57%
Healthcare covered by <u>C</u> hildren’s <u>M</u> ed. <u>S</u> ec. <u>P</u> lan or MassHealth	51%	45%

* Note: Child may be too young in some instances for a question to be truly appropriate.

Table 5.6.5a shows the childhood chronic illness and disability status reported in the most needy Nantucket family households. (See also, Appendix 2.D)

Table 5.6.5a: Childhood Chronic Illness and Disability Status in Nantucket’s Most Needy Young People Family Households

Child Status	Percent of Nantucket Most Needy Young People Family Households	Percent of Nantucket Most Needy Young People Family Households
Parent/Guardian: Tell us about your youngest and oldest children:	“Yes” For Youngest Child:	“Yes” For Oldest Child:
Has a chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, ADHD, depression, etc.)	18%	31%
Has a disability (vision, hearing, physical, mental/emotional, etc.)	10%	6%

Table 5.6.5b shows additional children/family–related findings for Nantucket’s most needy young people family households. (See also, Appendix 2.D)

Table 5.6.5b: Child(ren)’s After-School Supervision in Nantucket’s Most Needy Young People Family Households

Children/Family Situation	Percent of Nantucket Most Needy Young People Family Households
Parent/Guardian: Does any child in your household (age 17 or younger) arrive home from school to a house where NO ADULT is present? (YES)	5%

Table 5.6.5c shows the primary children/family risk factors reported to be at work in the most needy Nantucket family households. (See also, Appendix 2.D)

Table 5.6.5c: Primary Children-Family Risk Factors in Nantucket’s Most Needy Young People Family Households

Children/Family <u>Risk</u> Factor	Percent of Nantucket Most Needy Young People Family Households
Parent/Guardian: Tell us how often these statements apply to ANY child living in your household:	“Sometimes” or “Often” For Any Child:*
Acts stubbornly at home or in school	46%
Acts disrespectfully toward others	37%
Is disobedient or defies adults	36%
Appears overly sad, discouraged, or depressed	33%
Seems stressed out, nervous, or worried	29%
Feels a lack of community support for him/herself or friends	26%
Verbally abuses members of his/her household	22%
Fights with or hurts siblings or adult household members	21%
Is involved in physical fights at school or in the neighborhood	10%
Attends an unsafe school	8%
In anger, hits or hurts a boyfriend, girlfriend, or another kid	5%
Hangs with kids known to use drugs or drink alcohol	2%
Has experienced teen dating violence (date rape, etc.)	0%

* Child may be too young in some instances for a question to be truly appropriate.

Table 5.6.6 shows key children/family-related issues in Nantucket's most needy young people family households.

Table 5.6.6: Children/Family-Related Household Issues in Nantucket's Most Needy Young People Family Households [a minor-to-major problem in household]

Children and Family-Related Household Issues	Percent of Nantucket Most Needy Young People Family Households
Not being able to find or afford child day care	57%
Not being able to find or afford after-school child care	47%
Children or teenagers experiencing behavioral or emotional problems	34%
Underage smoking or other tobacco use	5%
Underage drinking	4%